

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education

Week of May 12 – May 16, 2008

Budget Update –

On Tuesday, the Senate had received the budget ([H.4800 and H.4801](#)) as amended by the House. The Senate non-concurred with the House amendments and a conference committee was named to work out the differences. The Senate conferees are Senators Leatherman, Peeler, and Land. The House conferees are Representatives Cooper, Merrill, and J. Neal. The conferees met on Wednesday to begin discussions. Items that are the same on each side were accepted. The Committee adjourned to meet again on May 19th.

Past CHE summary reports on the House and Senate recommendations for higher education are at the [Week of April 7 – April 11](#) for Senate recommendations and at [Week of May 5 – May 9](#) and the [Week of March 10 – March 14](#) for the House recommendations.

As a reminder in regard to the process, once the conference committee agrees on a report, it must be accepted in both chambers. The budget then goes to the Governor who will have the opportunity to veto items. The General Assembly will consider any vetoes before the budget is finalized.

In the House –

On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee met and approved the subcommittee recommendations on [S.75](#) relating to the closing of the state's tuition prepayment plan, [S.1232](#) relating to local sales and use tax for education capital improvements, and [S.1252](#) relating to the Research Centers of Economic Excellence. Ways and Means further amended S.1252 to include provisions relating to the SC LightRail as included in [H.4953](#). House Education and Public Works met on Wednesday and voted to report out favorably [S.991](#) which makes a technical correction to a code citation that had been inadvertently included in the chapter relating to CHE. On Thursday, the committee reports on S.75, S.991, S.1232, and S.1252 were received in the House.

For a look at upcoming House meetings, go to http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess117_2007-2008/blatmeet.htm

In the Senate –

On Thursday, the Senate received from the House [S.950](#) relating to Denmark Technical College and authority to enter into ground lease agreements with private entities. The Senate amended the House amendments on S.950 and returned the bill to the House. [S.1377](#) was introduced and referred to Senate Education. This bill would amend statutes relating to free tuition for certain veterans' children, so as to provide free tuition to a person attending a state-supported college, university, or technical school if he is a child of a veteran who graduated from a four-year SC college or university, who participated in the reserve officer training corps program and graduated a commissioned officer, and who died while performing military service.

For a look at upcoming Senate meetings, go to http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess117_2007-2008/gresmeet.htm

Other –

On Thursday, the Governor issued a veto message on [H.4520](#) relating to the authority and process by which USC could issue revenue bonds to provide funds for a new business school facility and renovation of the Close-Hipp building. The bill now awaits consideration of the House and Senate. The Governor signed into law [H.4680](#) relating to the make-up of the Spartanburg Technical and Community College Area Commission and [S.1077](#) relating to a procurement exemption for FCC licenses authorizing use of educational broadband service spectrum granted to Greenville and Trident Technical Colleges

[H.4408](#) relating to the course eligibility requirements for science and math enhancements for LIFE and Palmetto Fellows was ratified on Thursday and awaits consideration of the Governor. The Governor has five days, excepting Sundays, to sign a bill into law, let a bill go into law without his signature, or veto a bill. If a bill is vetoed, a two-thirds vote by each chamber is required to override the veto.

Reminder: The above report is not intended to be all inclusive. Bill numbers are linked to the SC General Assembly page. The link should go to the most recent version of the bill. For additional information on legislation referenced above and other legislation relating to higher education, see http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCntr/Legis/HigherEd_Legis_List.xls. Detailed information on the 2008 Session of the General Assembly may be access at www.scstatehouse.net or from links included on CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/InfoCntr/LegislativeSession08.htm>.